

Refugees help Refugees in Global Youth Service Day Project



"Most of the teen refugees we work with have been in Utah for about a year, but they vividly remember coming to Utah and having to start school in a strange language and without many of the necessary school supplies," says Lisa Moynihan, the Youthlinc Real Life in SLC intern. "So this service project is very meaningful for them."

Moynihan, a University of Utah student, is talking about a Global Youth Service Day project where teen refugees associated with the Hser Ner Moo Welcome Center in South Salt Lake will select - and stock with donated supplies - a donated back pack for a newly arrived teen refugee.

The project is also part of Real Life in Salt Lake City, Youthlinc's flagship local service project, an afterschool youth mentoring program designed to help refugee youth become acculturated to life in Salt Lake City by forming friendships with Utah youth of the same age. The program - now in its third year of partnering with Hser Ner Moo Welcome Center - provides valuable lessons in handling finances, health, hygiene, emotions, and provides a low-stress environment to practice English skills.

Youthlinc student mentors and Hser Ner Moo students will set up an assembly line for over 100 backpacks on **Friday, April 20, 4-6pm** at the **Columbus Center, 2530 South 500 East in South Salt Lake**. Each refugee youth participating in the service will also write welcome letters to new refugee teens. At 5pm, when the back packs are stocked with school supplies, newly arrived teen refugees associated with the International Rescue Committee will come to receive this gift and to have a little 'get to know you' party with games and treats.

Youthlinc and the Utah Commission on Volunteers are donating back packs and supplies. Utah is one of five cities nationwide which are hubs for refugee resettlement. Over 30,000 refugees live in and around Salt Lake City.

"This project will serve to remind our youth that no matter how long you have lived in Utah, it is always time to extend a hand of welcome, service, and friendship to people who are just arriving," says Real Life in SLC and Youthlinc Local Service Director, Julia Wee.

Real Life in SLC is just one Youthlinc program, providing a local service site for many of the young volunteers associated with the Utah based non-profit. Youthlinc also organizes a local and international Service Year for 150+ Utah youth annually, contributing over 12,000 hours of local service state-wide and traveling to impoverished villages in Kenya, Guatemala, Peru, Cambodia, and Thailand each summer.

For more information, contact Julia Wee office@youthlinc.org 801-467-4417
Visit our website www.youthlinc.org

Event: **Friday, April 20, 2012 4-6pm** at the **Columbus Center 2530 South 500 East**, South Salt Lake